

Ref turns down late 'penalty'

WYCOMBE players had strong penalty appeals turned down in the closing stages of their Berger Isthmian League Premier Division match at Top Field on Tuesday night.

Referee David Keen waved aside appeals after Hitchin defender Terry Mortimer had appeared to handle the ball inside the penalty area three minutes from time.

A great run and chip by Bobby Davies caused trouble in the Hitchin ranks and as Wycombe's Terry Glynn

By MICHAEL KNOX: Hitchin 0, Wycombe 0.

rose for the ball, Mortimer seemed to commit the offence.

But neither linesman nor referee saw the incident and so Wanderers were thwarted in their bid to record a third successive victory.

They would have been lucky to emerge from this game with three points, as for much of the contest, they were unable to string their passes together against a strong and speedy Hitchin team.

If the match were decided on goal chances, then Hitchin would have finished on top. Only some great saves by Chris Way, deputising for the ill Gary Lester, and a couple of glaring misses prevented the home side scoring.

They could have scored after only three minutes. Steve Mahoney, who was to trouble the Blues defence all night, beat the off-side trap and only a combination of George Borg and Way

prevented the forward getting a shot.

Later in the half Way dived well to save from Mahoney's header but the little forward's best chance came right on half-time when Robin Chandler put him clean through the defence. With only Way to beat, Mahoney shot hopelessly wide.

Wycombe were well in the game without creating danger. Steve Long worked hard to some effect, but it was not until Gary Toll emerged from the substitute's bench in the closing stages that they threatened the home goal.

Jacobs may return against Dagenham

JIMMY Jacobs could return to the Wycombe Wanderers mid-field for their Berger Isthmian League match against F.A. Trophy champions Dagenham at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

Manager Mike Keen was concerned with his team's performance in mid-field at Hitchin and before the end brought off Howard Kennedy for an extra forward in Gary Toll.

The improvement in Wanderers' performance after Toll's appearance on the field, could mean he starts the match with Dagenham. Jacobs has recovered from injury and played in the Reserves, so could be back.

There will not be such a rapid return for centre-half Gary Fowles. The Blues defence has not conceded a goal in the past three games and Mr Keen made special mention of Keith Mead, who, he says, "is playing very, very well at present."

Hardwick happy

If even one of the centre backs were unavailable Fowles might still not get in. Steve Hardwick, put on the transfer list last week, is rated highly by Mr Keen, who said there had been no inquiries from other clubs for the player.

"Steve's still with us and he's happy to play in the Reserves and try to get his place

back," said Mr Keen this week. So Hardwick might not be leaving after all.

Dagenham delighted all Isthmian fans when they beat Mossley at Wembley in May to lift the F.A. Trophy — the first club from the league to do so.

Most of that team are playing tomorrow, although skipper Denis Moore is currently languishing in the Reserves after the close season signing of Enfield's Keith Elley. Talented mid-field player Joe Dunwell will be missing because of a back injury, which, it is feared,

might end a distinguished career.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	7	5	2	0	14	1	17
Walthamstow	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Tooting	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
Staines	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Slough	7	2	5	0	11	7	11
Sutton	7	3	2	2	12	11	11
Dulwich	6	2	4	0	12	7	10
Hitchin	7	2	3	2	10	7	9
Leytonstone	6	3	0	3	14	14	9
Dagenham	7	2	3	2	13	9	9
Wycombe	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
Bromley	7	2	3	2	7	9	9
Harrow	7	2	2	3	8	8	8
Bottom Wd	7	2	2	3	6	10	8
Harlow	7	1	4	2	11	11	7
Leatherhead	7	1	4	2	5	7	7
Woking	7	2	1	4	5	7	7
Croydon	7	1	4	2	5	6	7
Berkley	7	2	1	4	10	15	7
Carshalton	6	2	0	4	3	11	6
Handon	7	1	2	4	6	11	5
Hayes	6	1	1	4	1	7	4

Trio into Cup action

BURNHAM, Chalfont St Peter and Marlow put their Athenian League troubles behind them tomorrow (Saturday) as they go into FA Cup action.

Chalfont St Peter have the unenviable task of travelling to Billericay, previous winners of the FA Vase and now in their second season in the Isthmian League.

The team were promoted from Division Two last season, and this season are up with the early leaders. Chal-

font are one of a few teams in recent years to have beaten Billericay twice in one season.

But following their disastrous performance against Windsor and Eton in the league on Tuesday evening, when they went down 6-1, Chalfont can expect a few changes in the line-up. Who will come in as manager Keith Moulton tries to find a winning formula is not yet known.

Marlow are another team searching for that extra touch which will help bring in the points. A lack of concentration has led to them conceding

a host of goals this season, while the forward line has failed to serve up the goods.

They must hope to produce some form when they entertain Isthmian League Premier Division side Harrow Borough. Wycombe Wanderers drew 1-1 when they travelled to Harrow this season.

Burnham, who are accustomed to doing well but are finding the going tough this season, go into Cup action at Southern League table-toppers Aylesbury United.

Thin air

The blues defence played well but the team seemed to lose their way in mid-field. I am not convinced that Jimmy Richardson is the answer here. Although he produced a few nice touches, he spent much of his time chasing thin air.

Tony Price, the hammer of Hitchin last season with four goals in two games, managed only a couple of shots at goal this time while Glynn worked hard but looked as though he wanted more support.

A penalty near the end really would have been a bonus and Wycombe will not have been displeased at collecting a point from a potentially awkward game.

HITCHIN: B. Robinson; G. Sisman, D. Dodds, R. Folts, K. Hammond, T. Mortimer, P. Adams (sub: T. Martin 77 mins), K. Mulken, P. Giggie, S. Mahoney, R. Chandler.

WYCOMBE: C. Way, P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. Dell, S. Long, H. Kennedy (sub: G. Toll 77 mins), T. Glynn, J. Richardson, A. Price.

Referee: D. Keen (Reading).

Blues at home

WYCOMBE Wanderers entertain Hungerford Town in the first round of this season's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup to be played on October 4.

The tie will revive unhappy memories for Blues fans who saw their side bundled out of the competition by Hungerford four seasons ago.

Amersham Town, who last year reached the semi-finals, travel to Bracknell Town while Holmer Green will have a chance to gain some glory at Chesham.

Marlow and Burnham meet in an all Athenian League tie, while Flackwell Heath entertain Hazells and Chalfont St Peter travel to Olney Town.